



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
P.O. Box 45040, Olympia, Washington 98504-5040**

February 8, 2006

Dear Tribal Leaders and Recognized Indian Organizations:

In October 2005, I gave you an update regarding a review of Children's Administration service contracts. This review is part of a continuing effort to strengthen services to children and families and to enhance our business practices and financial accountability. Over three hundred individuals attended meetings held across the state to provide comments about strengthening contracted services.

Using the information gathered at the meetings, we began an internal assessment of our contracted services in mid-August. We are now beginning the internal assessment of Tribal and Recognized Indian Organization contracts and agreements.

The purpose of the internal assessment is to identify if there are areas needing improvement to move contracted services closer to the goals outlined at the meetings last summer. Those goals are:

- Effective and efficient contracted services which have demonstrated outcomes are available to match the needs of Tribal and Washington's children involved in the child welfare system:
  - Significant increase in use of performance based contracts
  - Use of Evidence Based Practice where appropriate.
- Effective and efficient contracted services are available to children involved in the child welfare system in all regions.
- Strengthened business partnership between Children's Administration and Tribal governments and organizations.

To start the process, we would like you to tell us how you think we can improve our business partnership with you. If you have not already, you will soon receive a Service Provider Questionnaire. Please fill it out and return it. We are committed to making improvements to strengthen our business partnership with you and need to know your views.

Within the next few months, you will receive a notice of meetings scheduled to discuss the process for reviewing and renewing contracts and agreements. We anticipate that the outcome of these discussions will enable us to work together to strengthen contracts and agreements that extend beyond January 1, 2007.

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Thank you again for your involvement and commitment to improving services to children and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl Stephani". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cheryl Stephani  
Assistant Secretary  
Children's Administration